



The Sunset Beach Bistro hosts a true VIP

Friday night, a gathering of employees of the Divi Mega All-Inclusive Resort awaited the opportunity to bid a sunset goodbye to someone they consider a true VIP, a colleague, friend and inspiration to them all. His name is Raymond Wester, and he is “the man with the somber (hat)” who has been greeting island visitors at the door of the Divi Resort for the past twenty-one years. For the many repeat visitors that return to the Divi year after year, he is a symbol of Aruba’s warm, welcoming appeal.

“Raymundo,” as he is known to all, joined the Divi staff after working twenty-nine years with the Lago Refinery. He brought a passion for people to his job at the Divi Resort, where he has “manned the drive” faithfully, always ready with a smile and a helping hand. His evident concern and respect for the guests of the resort earned him the nomination of Employee of the Year, and Employee of the Quarter on two occasions.

On the eve of his retirement, before hanging up his hat for the last time, several of his fellow workers arranged a special dinner for Raymundo and his wife at the Sunset Beach Bistro Restaurant located in the Divi Phoenix Resort. Unbeknownst to Raymundo, they awaited his arrival all dressed in the island attire and hat that became his “uniform” and for which he is so famous.

In the words of his co-workers, this “doorman extraordinaire” has blessed the Divi with his warmth and genuine Aruban hospitality, and both they and regular guests of the resort wonder how this void can ever be filled. Pearl Lake, Front Office Manager stated “His ability to immediately make a newly arrived guest feel at home and truly welcome is a gift that we are sad to see go.”

During his farewell dinner Raymond’s children, Raymond, Jr. and daughter Marlene, along with her daughter, Sharlene, joined the festivities.

A final surprise for Raymondo from his fellow workers was parting gifts that displayed their affection and esteem, tangible reminders that he will be terribly missed. They all expressed their sincere wishes for success in the next chapter of his illustrious career.